

2025 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 210

BY SENATOR CLOUD

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

MUSEUMS. Provides relative to state museums. (8/1/25)

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 25:341, 342, 344, 345, 346, 349, 350, 353, 380.10, 380.14(A), (B) and (C)(2)(b)(iii), and 380.15 and R.S. 36:208(C) and 209(A)(3) and (9) and to repeal R.S. 25:351, 352 and 380.11 and R.S. 36:801.8, relative to the office of the state museum; to provide relative to the board of directors and appointments; to provide for domicile, powers and duties of the office of the state museum and its board; to provide regarding transition of board membership; to provide relative to properties included in the state museum system; to provide regarding use of the museum's collections; to provide relative to residential and commercial leasing of properties; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 25:341, 342, 344, 345, 346, 349, 350, 353, 380.10, 380.14(A), (B) and (C)(2)(b)(iii), and 380.15 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§341. Establishment and location; purpose; board of directors; appointment; compensation of members; terms; oaths

A. The Louisiana State Museum is established as a complex of facilities in the cities of Baton Rouge, Natchitoches, New Orleans, Patterson, Thibodaux, and

1 ~~Winnfield~~ under the management and supervision of the office of the state museum
2 of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

3 B. The Louisiana State Museum shall be a historical, cultural, and
4 educational institution whose primary purpose shall be to collect, preserve, and
5 present, as an educational resource, objects of art, documents, artifacts, and the like
6 that reflect the history, art, and culture of Louisiana.

7 C. The Board of Directors of the Louisiana State Museum, ~~hereinafter~~
8 **hereafter in this Chapter** referred to as the board, is hereby created in the
9 Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

10 D. The board ~~of directors of the Louisiana State Museum~~ shall be composed
11 of members as provided in ~~this~~ Subsection **E of this Section**. ~~The secretary of the~~
12 ~~Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, or his designee, shall serve as a~~
13 ~~member of the board.~~ Each ~~additional~~ **appointed** member of the board shall have a
14 knowledge of and interest in art, history, and cultural restoration. Further, each
15 member nominee shall have experience in at least one of the following subject areas:
16 marketing, law, historic preservation, museum sciences, finance, accounting,
17 business administration, fundraising for nonprofits, facility management, community
18 or consumer advocacy, or other pertinent disciplines. ~~Additional members of the~~
19 ~~board shall be appointed by the lieutenant governor as follows:~~

20 **E.(1)The following members of the board shall serve as ex officio**
21 **members:**

22 **(a) The governor, or his designee.**

23 **(b) The lieutenant governor, or his designee.**

24 **(c) The president of the Senate, or his designee.**

25 **(d) The speaker of the House of Representatives, or his designee.**

26 **(2) Beginning January 15, 2029, each of the following members of the**
27 **board shall be appointed by the lieutenant governor from a list of names**
28 **submitted by a nominating entity as follows:**

29 (1) Each of the following shall submit a list of four names, and the lieutenant

1 ~~governor shall appoint members in a manner described in this Paragraph:~~

2 (a) ~~Two members~~ **One member selected from a list of three names**
3 nominated by the Friends of the Cabildo.

4 (b) One member **selected from a list of three names** nominated by the
5 Louisiana Historical Society.

6 (c) One member **selected from a list of three names** nominated by the
7 Louisiana Historical Association.

8 ~~(d) One member nominated by the Foundation for Historical Louisiana.~~

9 ~~(e)~~**(d)** One member **selected from a list of three names** nominated by the
10 Wedell-Williams Memorial Foundation ~~of the Wedell-Williams Aviation and~~
11 ~~Cypress Sawmill Foundation in Patterson, Inc.~~

12 ~~(f)~~**(e)** ~~Two members~~ **One member selected from a list of three names**
13 nominated by the Louisiana Museum Foundation.

14 ~~(g)~~**(f)** One member **selected from a list of three names** nominated by the
15 Friends of the Edward Douglass White Historic Site.

16 ~~(h)~~**(g)** One member **selected from a list of three names** nominated by the
17 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Foundation **in collaboration with Friends of the**
18 **Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum.**

19 ~~(i)~~**(h)** One member **selected from a list of three names** nominated by the
20 Louisiana Civil Rights Museum Advisory Board **in collaboration with the Friends**
21 **of the Louisiana Civil Rights Museum.**

22 ~~(j)~~**(i)** ~~Two members~~ **One member selected from a list of three names**
23 nominated by the Friends of Capitol Park Museum.

24 ~~(2)~~**(3)** Seven members shall be appointed **by the lieutenant governor** from
25 the state at large in such manner as to provide that membership on the board will
26 reflect the ethnic and cultural diversity of the population of the state and encourage
27 statewide representation on the board.

28 ~~(3)~~**(4)**(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph ~~(1)~~**(2)** of this
29 Subsection, should any entity fail to make all or any of the nominations ~~initially~~

1 required in Paragraph ~~(1)~~**(2)** of this Subsection ~~by August 1, 2008, or~~ within thirty
2 days of ~~the swearing in of a new lieutenant governor thereafter~~ **of its receipt of a**
3 **request for nominations from the appointing authority**, the lieutenant governor
4 may make an appointment for that nominating entity's seat on the board from the
5 state at large.

6 (b) A nominee whose name is submitted by more than one entity concurrently
7 shall automatically be disqualified from consideration so long as the nominee
8 remains on multiple lists. The lieutenant governor shall notify the offending
9 nominating entities of the duplicate nominees in writing and each such nominating
10 entity shall have fifteen days from receipt of such notice to resubmit a list of names
11 for consideration. Should an entity fail to submit an un-duplicated list of four names
12 timely, the lieutenant governor may make the appointment for that nominating
13 entity's seat on the board from the state at large.

14 ~~EF.~~**(1)** Each appointment by the lieutenant governor ~~and each designee~~ shall
15 be submitted to the Senate for confirmation.

16 **(2)(a)** For members appointed pursuant to Subsection ~~DE~~**(2) and (3)** of this
17 Section, the term of office shall be four years after initial terms as provided in
18 Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph. ~~A member shall serve no more than two~~
19 ~~consecutive terms.~~

20 (b) ~~Five~~ **Four** members shall serve an initial term of one year; ~~five~~ **four**
21 members shall serve an initial term of two years; ~~five~~ **four** members shall serve an
22 initial term of three years; ~~five~~ **four** members shall serve an initial term of four years,
23 as determined by lot at the first meeting of the board **held in calendar year 2029.**

24 ~~FG.~~**(1)(a)** When a vacancy on the board occurs among the members
25 appointed pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph ~~(D)~~~~(1)~~**(E)****(2)** of this Section, the
26 entity that nominated the member shall submit to the lieutenant governor a list of
27 ~~four~~ **three** nominees to fill the vacancy. The lieutenant governor shall fill the
28 vacancy by appointment from among the nominees and the appointment shall be for
29 the remainder of the term.

1 (b) In the event there is more than one position vacant on the board
2 concurrently, a nominee whose name is submitted by more than one entity shall
3 automatically be disqualified from consideration so long as the nominee remains on
4 multiple lists. The lieutenant governor shall notify the offending nominating entities
5 of the duplicate nominees in writing and each such nominating entity shall have
6 fifteen days from receipt of such notice to resubmit a list of names for consideration.
7 Should an entity fail to submit an un-duplicated list of ~~four~~ **three** names timely, the
8 lieutenant governor may make the appointment for that nominating entity's seat on
9 the board from the state at large.

10 **(c) Should a vacancy occur before January 15, 2029, in one of the two**
11 **positions on the board that represent the Friends of the Cabildo, the Louisiana**
12 **Museum Foundation, or the Friends of the Capitol Park Museum, the lieutenant**
13 **governor shall not appoint a member to fill that vacancy provided that the other**
14 **position that represents the Friends of the Cabildo, the Louisiana Museum**
15 **Foundation, or the Friends of the Capitol Park is occupied.**

16 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection,
17 should any entity fail to make any or all nominations required by Paragraph (1) of
18 this Subsection within thirty days after the vacancy occurs, the lieutenant governor
19 may make an appointment for that nominating entity's seat on the board from the
20 state at large.

21 (3) When a vacancy occurs among the at-large members appointed pursuant
22 to the provisions of Paragraph ~~(D)~~~~(2)~~**(E)(3)** of this Section, then the lieutenant
23 governor shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy within thirty days of the vacancy.
24 The member appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve the remainder of the unexpired
25 term.

26 **GH.** The members of the board shall serve without compensation, but they
27 shall receive their actual expenses incurred in attending any meeting of the board.

28 **HL.** Each member of the board shall take and subscribe to the oath of office
29 required of state officials.

1 §342. Domicile; powers and duties of the office of the state museum and the board;
2 buildings and properties administered

3 A.(1) The board of directors shall meet once each quarter, unless additional
4 meetings are called by the lieutenant governor, the secretary of the Department of
5 Culture, Recreation and Tourism, the chairman of the board, or a quorum of the
6 board.

7 (2) The board shall adopt bylaws establishing policies and procedures for its
8 governance, including but not limited to the following:

9 (a) The election and responsibilities of the board's officers, including a
10 chairman and vice chairman to serve terms of two years;

11 (b) The selection, term, compensation, and responsibilities of advisors to the
12 board; and

13 (c) The creation, appointment, compensation, duties, and functions of
14 standing or special committees of the board.

15 (3) ~~A majority~~ **Ten members** of the board shall constitute a quorum for the
16 transaction of official business. All official actions of the board shall require the
17 affirmative vote of a majority of the members present and voting.

18 (4) The board shall establish and use an identifying seal pertaining to
19 museum business. The board shall not authorize reports and recommendations which
20 include the issue, publication, or distribution of general information documents or
21 pamphlets, which are published on a regular basis and are generally known as
22 newsletters.

23 (5) The board shall ~~assist the secretary and assistant secretary in establishing~~
24 ~~fiscal policies, including but not limited to operational budgets and financial controls~~
25 ~~over existing and new projects~~ **provide advice and counsel on matters related to**
26 **the Louisiana State Museum.**

27 ~~(6)B.(1) The museum shall be open to the public. The assistant secretary of~~
28 ~~the office of the state museum may establish in accordance with the Administrative~~
29 ~~Procedure Act admission and~~ **fees**, tour fees, and user ~~or rental~~ fees for any or all

1 museum buildings and exhibits ~~to be charged by the museum~~ **that are open to the**
2 **public.**

3 (2) Such user ~~or rental~~ fees shall reflect the actual cost of maintenance of the
4 space ~~rented~~ **used** and the market rates for comparable space in the locality of the
5 space ~~rented~~ **used**.

6 (7)(3) The office of the state museum, through the assistant secretary and in
7 cooperation with nonprofit corporations established to support the Louisiana State
8 Museum, may seek private funding to support the museum's programs.

9 (8)C. The office of the state museum, through the assistant secretary, shall
10 have authority to contract with consulting experts in the fields of museum
11 administration and conservation of paintings, books and papers, and other decorative
12 arts, and with appraisers, buying agents, designers, engineers, attorneys, accountants,
13 construction and financial experts, and other such persons as may be necessary to
14 carry out the purposes of the museum.

15 (9)D. Notwithstanding any provisions of law to the contrary and in particular
16 the provisions of R.S. 25:349(B)(5) and R.S. 41:1212, the office of the state
17 museum, through the assistant secretary, may enter into contracts and agreements
18 with any public agency or nonprofit corporation which has been established for the
19 primary purpose of supporting the programs and activities of the Louisiana State
20 Museum, including **but not limited to** the Friends of the Cabildo, ~~Friends of the~~
21 ~~Museums of Local Interest, Friends of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame~~
22 **Foundation**, the Wedell-Williams Memorial Foundation, **Inc.**, and the Louisiana
23 Museum Foundation, for the establishment of offices, stores, or exhibits on the
24 property and in the buildings of the museum. The office of the state museum,
25 through the assistant secretary, may also enter into contracts and agreements for joint
26 construction, equipment, maintenance, and financing of such buildings, and may
27 enter into contracts and agreements for the joint financing, supervision, and conduct
28 of cooperative enterprises and undertakings. Any public agency may enter into
29 contracts and agreements with the office of the state museum for the purposes

1 provided in this Paragraph.

2 ~~BE.~~(1) The domicile of the board shall be the city of New Orleans, ~~provided~~
3 ~~that the office of the state museum may establish additional offices within such~~
4 ~~museum facilities as it may deem advisable, after consultation with the board.~~

5 (2) The secretary of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism and
6 the assistant secretary of the **office of the** state museum shall consult with the board
7 with respect to policies for the state museum.

8 ~~(3)~~ The board shall ~~continue to~~ exercise its powers, duties, ~~and functions,~~ **and**
9 **responsibilities** with respect to accessions, deaccessions, loans, and conservation of
10 ~~museum properties and~~ **the** collections **of the Louisiana State Museum** in
11 accordance with ~~professional museum practices as~~ **the standards** established by the
12 American Alliance of Museums, except as otherwise provided by law; and the
13 members ~~thereof~~ **of the board** shall ~~continue to~~ serve as trustees for the William Irby
14 Trust.

15 **(4) In their capacity as trustees for the William Irby Trust, the members**
16 **of the board are entitled to receive and review information, documentation,**
17 **reports, and testimony from the office of the state museum and its contractors**
18 **to verify that the leasing program provided for in R.S. 25:349 and 350 including**
19 **revenue generated therefrom is administered in accordance with the**
20 **comprehensive usage plan for commercial leases adopted by the board, the**
21 **terms and conditions of the trust, and all provisions of applicable law.**

22 ~~(3)~~**(5)** The office of the state museum, ~~subject to the provisions of R.S.~~
23 ~~36:909,~~ shall have custody of and shall administer, manage, operate, maintain, and
24 preserve all of the following:

25 (a) The buildings, collections, and exhibitions of the Louisiana State Museum
26 complex located in the city of New Orleans, including but not limited to the Cabildo,
27 the Presbytere, the Lower Pontalba Building, the Jackson House, the Creole House,
28 the Arsenal, Madame John's Legacy, **the 1850 House, the Louisiana Civil Rights**
29 **Museum, the Museum Storage and Curation facility,** and the **New Orleans Jazz**

1 Museum at the Old United States Mint in New Orleans.

2 (b) The Wedell-Williams Memorial Aviation and Cypress Sawmill Museum
3 in Patterson.

4 (c) The Louisiana Political Museum and Hall of Fame.

5 (d) ~~The Louisiana Forestry Museum~~ The Capitol Park Museum.

6 (e) The Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History
7 Museum.

8 (f) ~~The Winn Parish Museum.~~

9 (g) The Edward Douglass White Historic Site.

10 (h) ~~The Natchitoches Parish Old Courthouse Museum.~~

11 (i)(g) Other museums, buildings, historic sites, and facilities hereafter
12 established under jurisdiction of the office.

13 ~~E.F.~~(1) For the prompt and efficient transaction of business, the board may
14 create from its membership an executive committee which shall consist of the
15 chairman and vice chairman of the board and such additional members as shall be
16 provided in bylaws of the board. The executive committee shall have full authority
17 to act for the board at any scheduled board meeting at which a quorum is not present.
18 ~~The members shall record the proceedings of each meeting of the executive~~
19 ~~committee.~~

20 (2) A majority of the members of the executive committee shall constitute a
21 quorum for the transaction of business.

22 (3) ~~The executive committee shall meet in those months in which the board~~
23 ~~does not meet or at the call of the chairman.~~

24 (4) The executive committee shall consider such matters as are referred to it
25 by the board. It shall execute such orders and resolutions as shall be assigned to it at
26 any meeting of the board, and it shall also take such action as is necessary when an
27 emergency requiring immediate action arises during the interim between board
28 meetings. All acts of the executive committee shall be submitted to the board for
29 ratification or rejection at its next meeting except acts on which the board has

1 delegated to the executive committee full power to act and acts taken at a meeting
2 held because a quorum of the board was not present for a board meeting.

3 ~~D~~G. The Louisiana State Museum shall cooperate with Louisiana schools and
4 institutions of higher learning in the teaching of Louisiana history and culture.

5 ~~E~~H. Except as otherwise provided by law, the board and the professional staff
6 of the Louisiana State Museum shall be governed by the standard of museum ethics
7 as promulgated by the American ~~Association~~ Alliance of Museums. The board may
8 adopt such further standards of ethics as it deems to be in the best interest of the
9 museum.

10 * * *

11 §344. Operating funds

12 The legislature shall provide sufficient funds for the proper professional
13 operation of the properties of the ~~museum as provided in R.S. 25:342(B)(3)~~
14 Louisiana State Museum, according to accepted standards of museum operations
15 and practices as established by the American ~~Association~~ Alliance of Museums,
16 including a competent professional, technical, and administrative staff, all members
17 of which shall be subject to the civil service laws.

18 §345. Donations and loans; disposition of abandoned loans

19 A. The office of the state museum, through the assistant secretary and in
20 cooperation with the board and nonprofit organizations established to support the
21 Louisiana State Museum, may seek and accept funds, governmental grants,
22 donations, and contributions of lands, buildings, money, relics, works of art, or other
23 property on behalf of and as additions to the museum either in the form of loans or
24 in the form of donations inter vivos or mortis causa, or may acquire them by
25 purchase, lease, or otherwise, subject to the terms, condition, or limitation contained
26 in the instrument by which such property is acquired. However, the office of the
27 state museum, through the assistant secretary, shall be empowered and authorized
28 to enter into any and all contracts with any person, lender, or donor that it may deem
29 fit, proper, and necessary to accept and receive such lands, buildings, money, relics,

1 works of art, or other property on behalf of and as additions to the museum. The
2 museum is specifically empowered to serve as the beneficiary of any public trust
3 heretofore or hereafter created for such purpose pursuant to the provisions of R.S.
4 9:2341 through 2347.

5 B. The ~~board~~ **office of the state museum, through the assistant secretary,**
6 is granted the authority of deaccession with respect to any collections of the
7 Louisiana State Museum and for such purpose is specifically exempted from the laws
8 of the state relative to the sale or disposal of surplus property. The board shall
9 establish policies and procedures necessary to carry out this authority in an orderly
10 manner consistent with the standards established by the American ~~Association~~
11 **Alliance** of Museums, except as otherwise provided by law.

12 C.(1) Any property which has been deposited with the Louisiana State
13 Museum, by loan or otherwise, and which has been held by the **office of the state**
14 museum for more than ten years, and to which no person has made claim shall be
15 deemed to be abandoned and, notwithstanding the provisions of Chapter 1 of Title
16 XII of Book III of the Louisiana Civil Code, shall become the property of the **office**
17 **of the state** museum, provided that the **office of the state** museum has complied
18 with the following provisions:

19 (2) At least once a week for two consecutive weeks, the **office of the state**
20 museum shall publish in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the parish
21 in which the particular museum facility is located a notice and listing of the property.
22 The notice shall contain all of the following:

23 (a) The name and last known address, if any, of the last known owner or
24 depositor of the property.

25 (b) A description of the property.

26 (c) A statement that if proof of claim is not presented by the owner to the
27 **office of the state** museum and if the owner's right to receive such property is not
28 established to the satisfaction of the **office of the state** museum within sixty-five
29 days from the date of the second published notice, the property will be deemed to be

1 abandoned and shall become the property of the **office of the state** museum.

2 (3) If no valid claim has been made to the property within sixty-five days
3 from the date of the second published notice, title to the property shall vest in the
4 **office of the state** museum free from all claims of the owner and all persons
5 claiming through or under him.

6 §346. Use of museum's collections

7 The collections of the ~~museum~~ **Louisiana State Museum** may be lent in part
8 subject to ~~approval~~ **and in accordance with the collections management policy**
9 **approved** by the board. The office of the state museum shall ~~insure~~ **ensure** proper
10 safeguards for their maintenance and return and shall ~~insure~~ **ensure** that proper
11 records are kept. ~~The collections shall be available for the use of educational~~
12 ~~projects, subject to the approval of the board.~~

13 §349. Commercial leases; New Orleans French Quarter

14 A. Notwithstanding any provisions of law to the contrary, and in particular
15 the provisions of R.S. 41:1212, the ~~board of directors of the Louisiana State Museum~~
16 **office of the state museum** is authorized to lease **or contract with a qualified real**
17 **estate or property management company to lease**, for any purposes other than oil,
18 gas, or other mineral development, commercial space within ~~or on the~~ **the Lower**
19 **Pontalba Building and other** properties located in the New Orleans French Quarter
20 ~~of which the board has title to or custody or possession~~ **under the ownership,**
21 **management, jurisdiction, or possession of the office of the state museum,**
22 without advertising for and receiving public bids for such leases, provided that such
23 leases are negotiated for and executed according to the terms and conditions
24 contained in this Section.

25 B.(1) ~~The board shall establish a comprehensive usage plan and a lease~~
26 ~~program for the commercial space within or on the properties located in the New~~
27 ~~Orleans French Quarter of which the board has title to or custody or possession. The~~
28 ~~plan shall be in compliance with all of the following:~~

29 (a) ~~Be compatible with the historic nature of the museum properties.~~

1 ~~(b) Establish criteria for the acceptance or rejection of lease applications.~~

2 ~~(c) Be presented at a public meeting of the board with prior notice, by public~~
3 ~~advertisement at least once no more than ten days before such meeting is held, that~~
4 ~~such plan will be discussed at such meeting.~~

5 ~~(d) Be available to the public, in writing, upon request.~~

6 ~~(2) No earlier than one month after the adoption of such plan, the board shall~~
7 ~~review applications for commercial leases at a public meeting after notice by public~~
8 ~~advertisement at least once no more than ten days before such meeting is held, that~~
9 ~~such applications will be accepted at such meeting.~~

10 ~~(3) No earlier than one month after receiving such commercial lease~~
11 ~~applications the board shall render its decision to accept, reject, or defer such~~
12 ~~commercial lease applications at a public meeting after prior notice by public~~
13 ~~advertisement at least once no more than ten days before such meeting is held, that~~
14 ~~such decision will be rendered at such meeting.~~

15 ~~(4) In making its decision the board shall determine all of the following:~~

16 ~~(a) The financial qualifications of applicants.~~

17 ~~(b) The compatibility of the proposed lease with the historic integrity,~~
18 ~~structure, and safety of the property, the relationship of the proposed commercial~~
19 ~~lease with other commercial leases on the property.~~

20 ~~(c) The impact of the proposed lease on the historic character of the~~
21 ~~neighborhood in which the properties are located.~~

22 ~~(5) The board shall fix terms and establish minimum rental fees as~~
23 ~~determined in the comprehensive usage plan.~~

24 ~~(6) The board shall accept no applications from nor shall it approve any lease~~
25 ~~with any state official, board member or his spouse or child, or any person of which~~
26 ~~he is an officer, director, trustee, partner, or employee, or of which he has a~~
27 ~~substantial personal economic interest, as distinguished from that of a general class~~
28 ~~or general group of persons, of which he may be reasonably expected to know. The~~
29 ~~provisions of this Paragraph are illustrative and not exclusive.~~

1 ~~(7) All commercial leases approved by the board shall be reviewed by the~~
2 ~~attorney general and no lease shall be finally approved by the board unless approved~~
3 ~~by the attorney general as to form and legality.~~

4 **Any and all commercial leases shall be compatible with a comprehensive**
5 **usage plan approved by the board of directors of the Louisiana State Museum.**
6 **The comprehensive usage plan shall include criteria used to evaluate an**
7 **application for a commercial lease. The evaluation criteria may include but**
8 **shall not be limited to:**

9 **(a) The compatibility of the proposed use of the commercial space with**
10 **the historic nature of the museum property.**

11 **(b) The relationship and impact of the proposed commercial use on the**
12 **integrity and safety of the building.**

13 **(c) The anticipated effect of the proposed commercial use on the integrity**
14 **and safety of the building.**

15 **(d) The viability of the applicant's business plan and potential for**
16 **revenue generation.**

17 **(e) The financial qualifications of the applicant.**

18 **(f) Whether the application, proposed use, or resulting lease will result**
19 **or is likely to result in a violation of the Code of Governmental Ethics or any**
20 **other applicable law.**

21 **C. Following its determination that a commercial space is or will become**
22 **available for lease, the office of the state museum shall provide reasonable**
23 **public notice and an opportunity to submit applications to lease such**
24 **commercial space.**

25 **(1) The public notice shall be posted on the website of the department.**

26 **(2) The public notice shall provide the date the commercial space will be**
27 **available for lease; the address of the available commercial space; and how the**
28 **public may obtain additional information such as lease terms, application**
29 **requirements, and evaluation criteria.**

1 **D. All commercial leases shall be reviewed and approved by the attorney**
2 **general as to form and legality.**

3 §350. Residential leases; New Orleans French Quarter; State Museum Board has
4 title, custody, or possession

5 A. Notwithstanding any provisions of law to the contrary, and in particular
6 the provisions of R.S. 41:1212, the ~~board of directors of the Louisiana State Museum~~
7 ~~is hereby~~ **office of the state museum is** authorized to lease for any residential
8 purposes, **or contract with a qualified property management company to lease**
9 residential space within the Lower Pontalba Building ~~of which the board has title to~~
10 ~~or custody or possession of~~, without advertising for and receiving public bids for
11 such leases, provided that such leases are negotiated ~~for~~ and executed according to
12 the terms ~~and~~ **or** conditions set forth and contained in this Section.

13 (1) ~~The board shall receive applications from private individuals only~~
14 **Applications** for residential leases in the Lower Pontalba Building, ~~and shall~~
15 ~~approve or reject such applications~~ **shall be approved or rejected** based on the
16 financial qualifications ~~and~~ **or** prior lease experience of ~~such applicants~~ **the**
17 **applicant.**

18 (2) Approved applications shall be placed on file according to the date
19 received and applicants shall be shown available residential lease space according
20 to order of receipt. ~~Upon declination or disqualification of an applicant, the board~~
21 ~~shall show available residential lease space to the next applicant in order of receipt.~~
22 ~~The board may remove any applicant from the file who has declined the opportunity~~
23 ~~to lease on two or more occasions.~~

24 **B. Authorized use of such residential space also specifically includes use**
25 **by a public agency for a public purpose that benefits the Louisiana State**
26 **Museum.**

27 **C. The office of the state museum shall provide reasonable public notice**
28 **and an opportunity to submit applications to lease such residential space.**

29 **(1) The public notice shall be posted on the website of the department.**

1 contributions of lands, buildings, monies, relics, works of art, or other property on
 2 behalf of and as additions to the Edward Douglass White Historic Site either in the
 3 form of loans or in the form of donations inter vivos or mortis causa, and may
 4 acquire them by purchase, lease, or otherwise, subject to the terms, conditions, or
 5 limitations contained in the instrument by which such property is acquired. However,
 6 the ~~board~~ **office of the state museum** may enter into any and all contracts with any
 7 person, lender, or donor that it may deem fit, proper, and necessary to accept and
 8 receive such lands, buildings, monies, relics, works of art, or other property on behalf
 9 of and as additions to the Edward Douglass White Historic Site. The Edward
 10 Douglass White Historic Site may serve as the beneficiary of any public trust
 11 heretofore or hereafter created for such purpose pursuant to the provisions of R.S.
 12 9:2341 et seq.

13 B. The ~~board~~ **office of the state museum** is granted the authority of
 14 deaccession with respect to any collection of the Edward Douglass White Historic
 15 Site and, for such purpose, is exempted from laws relative to the sale or disposal of
 16 surplus property. The board shall establish policies and procedures necessary to carry
 17 out this authority in an orderly manner.

18 C.

19 * * *

20 (2)

21 * * *

22 (b) The notice shall contain:

23 * * *

24 (iii) A statement that if proof of claim is not presented by the claimant to the
 25 board and if the claimant's right to receive such property is not established to the
 26 satisfaction of the ~~board~~ **office of the state museum** within sixty-five days from the
 27 date of the second published notice, the property will be deemed to be abandoned
 28 and shall become the property of the Edward Douglass White Historic Site.

29 * * *

1 §380.15. Use of collections

2 Any collection of the Edward Douglass White Historic Site may be lent in
3 part, subject to ~~approval of~~ **and in accordance with the collections management**
4 **policies approved by** the board. The board shall ~~insure~~ **ensure** proper safeguards for
5 its maintenance and return and shall ~~insure~~ **ensure** that proper records are kept. The
6 collections shall be available for use in educational projects, subject to the approval
7 of the board.

8 Section 2. R.S. 36:208(C) and 209(A)(3) and (9) are hereby amended and reenacted
9 to read as follows:

10 §208. Offices; purposes and functions

11 * * *

12 C. The office of the state museum shall administer, manage, operate, and
13 maintain the Louisiana State Museum, including all buildings, collections, and
14 exhibitions of the Louisiana State Museum complex in New Orleans and other
15 museums which may be established under the jurisdiction of the museum; except that
16 the board of directors of the Louisiana State Museum shall ~~continue to~~ exercise its
17 powers, duties, and functions ~~with respect to accessions and deaccessions of museum~~
18 ~~properties and collections, and the members thereof shall continue to serve as~~
19 ~~trustees for the William Irby Trust~~ **as provided by law.**

20 * * *

21 §209. Transfer of boards, commissions, departments, and agencies to Department of
22 Culture, Recreation and Tourism

23 A. The following agencies are transferred to and hereafter shall be within the
24 Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism in accordance with the provisions
25 of R.S. 36:901 et seq. except as otherwise provided by this Subsection:

26 * * *

27 (3) The Board of Directors of the Louisiana State Museum (R.S. 25:341 et
28 seq.). The board shall ~~continue to~~ exercise ~~those~~ **its** powers, duties, ~~and~~ functions,
29 **and responsibilities** with respect to ~~accessions, deaccessions, loans, and~~

governor, the lieutenant governor, the president of the Senate, and the speaker of the House of Representatives, or their designees.

Proposed law clarifies that LSM will manage its collections in accordance with a board approved plan and American Alliance of Museums compliant collections management manual.

Proposed law provides regarding the commercial and residential leasing of properties and allows the outsourcing of the management of the leasing program.

Effective August 1, 2025.

(Amends R.S. 25:341, 342, 344, 345, 346, 349, 350, 353, 380.10, 380.14(A), (B), and (C)(2)(b)(iii), and 380.15 and R.S. 36:208(C) and 209(A)(3) and (9); repeals R.S. 25:351, 352, and 380.11 and R.S. 36:801.8)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the original bill

1. Change the number of names which a historical or cultural association or group submits to the lieutenant governor from four to three.
2. Change the organization that sets the standards for museum operations from the American Association of Museums to the American Alliance of Museums.
3. Makes technical changes.